

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11304 261645Z

51

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 261433Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3478

INFO AMCONSKG BOMBAY GOEO

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11304

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NMUC, EG, IN, LY

SUBJECT: EGYPT AND LIBYA SEEK NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY FROM
INDIA

IN MY CONVERSATION WITH DR. H.N. SETHNA, CHAIRMAN OF THE
INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION ON AAEUST 19 HE COMMENTED AT
CONSIDERABLE LENGHT ON WHAT HE SEES AS THE NUCLEAR AMBITIONS
OF EGYPT AND LIBYA. EVIDENTLY EGYPT HAS APPROACHED THEM ASKING
INDIA, IN RETURN FOR VARIOUS CONSIDERATIONS, TO PROVIDE THE
TECHNOLOGY THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
SETHNA WAS NOT EXPLICIT ASTO WHETHER THIS INCLUDED ROCKETRY,
BUT IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION MADE CLEAR THAT HE ASSUMED
THAT WE KNOW THAT INDIA MISSILE DEVELOPMENT IS WELL ADVANCED.
HE DID NOT SAY THAT EGYPT ASKED INDIA OUTRIGHT TO PROVIDE A
NUCLEAR WEAPONS FACTORY, AS IT WERE, ONLY THAT EGYPT ASKED
FOR A RANGE OF INSTALLATIONS AND ASSISTANCE SUCH THAT THE ONLY
REASONABLE CONCLUSION WAS THAT THEY DESIRED WEAPONS, A DESIRE
THEY EVIDENTLY WERE AT NO GREAT PAINS TO CONCEAL. HE ADDED
THAT THEY LIBYANS HAD BEEN TO SEE THEM FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.
HE WAS EMPHATIC, HOWEVER, THAT INDIA HAS NO INTENTION OF PRO-
VIDING EGYPT OR LIBYA WITH ANY SUCH POTENTIAL. I HOPE SO.

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MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NUCLEAR RESEARCH, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1974
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE11304
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740235-0842
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740818/aaaaapal.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <16 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPT AND LIBYA SEEK NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY FROM INDIA
TAGS: MNUC, EG, IN, LY, (SETHNA, H N)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005